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Partnerships' (WBP) application for federal funding, \$150,000 a year for five years, through the United States Small Business Administration's Office. The WBP provides training, technical assistance, loans and support to unemployed individuals. They conducted their programs in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Monterrey, and San Luis Obispo counties.

Education

Congressman Nunes became an original co-sponsor of H.R. 4410, the "Teacher Shortage Response Act." This bill is very similar to H.R. 438, which he co-sponsored earlier this year. This bill would provide additional student loan forgiveness for instructors who teach in the field of math, science, and special education. Currently the amount of loan forgiveness is set at \$5,000 and this bill would raise it to \$17,500.

Government Reform

As part of his goal to streamline government and make it more accessible to every American, Rep. Nunes co-sponsored the Inspector General Online Reporting Act. Inspectors General perform vital audits to ensure that government programs are not wasting taxpayer money. These audits and reports serve as a guide to federal agencies in an effort to correct wasteful, abusive and fraudulent use of tax dollars. Since taxpayers are responsible for funding these programs, they should have access to the reports

online. This legislation would require the Inspectors General to publish all semi-annual reports and audits online.

Judicial

Congressman Nunes signed a second letter of support for the authorization of four permanent judgeships for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, which covers Fresno and Tulare counties. The Eastern District's caseload is heavy and continues to rise. In fact, as of March 2004, the weighted caseload per judge has increased to 788, which is 55 percent greater than



the United States Judicial Conference's standard of 430 that is used to determine when a permanent judgeship should be added.

Trade

The Port of Oakland serves as the primary outlet for agricultural trade for farmers in the San Joaquin Valley. It is an essential launching point for shipments of fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as other important agriculture commodities, to Pacific Rim countries. Congress has authorized dredging at the port to deepen channels for growing traffic and larger vessels but must provide annual funding to complete

the work. Congressman Nunes communicated his support for funding to members of the Appropriations Committee and expressed his desire to see full funding of the Port's needs for 2005.

Transportation

In California, small communities face a range of fundamental economic challenges in both obtaining and retaining the commercial air service they desire. In the past, these communities have tried individually to attract various airlines to begin air service at their respective airports. This year, Coalition of California Airports is trying an innovative and cost conscious approach by combining its resources to enable one airline to offer consistent, reliable and reasonably priced intra-state air service at its members' airports.

A grant from the Department of Transportation to the Coalition of California Airports will help many small communities from Northern to Southern California solve their air service deficiencies and produce a badly needed economic boost for many rural and suburban cities throughout the state. To this end, Congressman Nunes sent a letter to Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, requesting his approval of federal funding requested by the Coalition of California Airports.

Quick Facts

In May, Rep. Nunes wrote to 1,152 constituents in response to their inquiries. Year to date, Rep. Nunes has responded to 5,773 constituents via the U.S. Mail.

Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has responded to 17,585 constituent letters via the U.S. Mail.